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POLICY MANUAL

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Amnesty International Policy Manual

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Introduction

This policy manual is a companion volume to the *Amnesty International Handbook*. It has a limited purpose. Previous editions of the handbook contained a small number of official texts adopted by the International Council and the International Executive Committee that were thought to be useful to the majority of Amnesty International members. However, since such texts are amended as policies change and since the handbook cannot constantly be updated, the new handbook no longer contains the collection of official texts. These are now reproduced in this new policy manual, updated annually.

The policy manual is *not* a complete compendium of all Amnesty International policies. Nor is it meant to be a reference work on all aspects of Amnesty International's mandate. Basic descriptions of the organization's policies and work are in the handbook, which should be consulted by anyone wanting a summary of major issues. Some subjects, such as work on human rights violations in one's own country, are also treated in basic Amnesty International leaflets, available throughout the movement. The policy manual's limited purpose is to provide easy access by members to a selection of official texts that are thought to be those most frequently consulted by members in their work. For specific guidelines on matters such as refugee work (which are extremely detailed and would require more space than this basic manual can initially provide for) and other matters not covered in detail in either the handbook or policy manual, members should consult their section or, in countries with no section, the International Secretariat.

It should also be borne in mind that the 1991 International Council adopted a number of changes to the Amnesty International mandate. Guidelines on these, and the full implications of these changes, are yet to be worked out. These will therefore be more fully reflected in future editions of this manual. Only those changes that could be made to texts in line with the decisions of the International Council in time for printing, have been incorporated in this first edition. Further changes may well be made in future editions as a result of a general review, called for by the International Council, of all guidelines and rules aiming at clarifying texts that are ambiguous, inconsistent or unclear, and bringing such texts into line with different practices that have evolved and been accepted over the years.

SECRET/NOI

Part 1
The Statute

Statute of Amnesty International

*As amended by the 20th International Council, meeting in Yokohama, Japan
31 August — 7 September 1991*

Object and Mandate

1. The object of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is to contribute to the observance throughout the world of human rights as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In pursuance of this object, and recognizing the obligation on each person to extend to others rights and freedoms equal to his or her own, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL adopts as its mandate:

To promote awareness of and adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other internationally recognized human rights instruments, the values enshrined in them, and the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and freedoms;

To oppose grave violations of the rights of every person freely to hold and to express his or her convictions and to be free from discrimination by reason of ethnic origin, sex, colour or language, and of the right of every person to physical and mental integrity, and, in particular, to oppose by all appropriate means irrespective of political considerations:

- a) the imprisonment, detention or other physical restrictions imposed on any person by reason of his or her political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs or by reason of his or her ethnic origin, sex, colour or language, provided that he or she has not used or advocated violence (hereinafter referred to as 'prisoners of conscience'; AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL shall work towards the release of and shall provide assistance to prisoners of conscience);
- b) the detention of any political prisoner without trial within a reasonable time or any trial procedures relating to such prisoners that do not conform to internationally recognized norms;

- c) the death penalty, and the torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detained or restricted persons, whether or not the persons affected have used or advocated violence;

- d) the extrajudicial execution of persons whether or not imprisoned, detained or restricted, and "disappearances", whether or not the persons affected have used or advocated violence.

Methods

2. In order to achieve the aforesaid object and mandate, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL shall:

- a) at all times make clear its impartiality as regards countries adhering to the different world political ideologies and groupings;

- b) promote as appears appropriate the adoption of constitutions, conventions, treaties and other measures which guarantee the rights contained in the provisions referred to in Article 1 hereof;

- c) support and publicize the activities of and cooperate with international organizations and agencies which work for the implementation of the aforesaid provisions;

- d) take all necessary steps to establish an effective organization of sections, affiliated groups and individual members;

- e) secure the adoption by groups of members or supporters of individual prisoners of conscience or entrust to such groups other tasks in support of the object and mandate set out in Article 1;

f) provide financial and other relief to prisoners of conscience and their dependants and to persons who have lately been prisoners of conscience or who might reasonably be expected to be prisoners of conscience or to become prisoners of conscience if convicted or if they were to return to their own countries, to the dependants of such persons and to victims of torture in need of medical care as a direct result thereof;

g) provide legal aid, where necessary and possible, to prisoners of conscience and to persons who might reasonably be expected to be prisoners of conscience or to become prisoners of conscience if convicted or if they were to return to their own countries, and, where desirable, send observers to attend the trials of such persons;

h) publicize the cases of prisoners of conscience or persons who have otherwise been subjected to disabilities in violation of the aforesaid provisions;

i) investigate and publicize the disappearance of persons where there is reason to believe that they may be victims of violations of the rights set out in Article 1 hereof;

j) oppose the sending of persons from one country to another where they can reasonably be expected to become prisoners of conscience or to face torture or the death penalty;

k) send investigators, where appropriate, to investigate allegations that the rights of individuals under the aforesaid provisions have been violated or threatened;

l) make representations to international organizations and to governments whenever it appears that an individual is a prisoner of conscience or has otherwise been subjected to disabilities in violation of the aforesaid provisions;

m) promote and support the granting of general amnesties of which the beneficiaries will include prisoners of conscience;

n) adopt any other appropriate methods for the securing of its object and mandate.

Organization

3. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is an organization based on worldwide voluntary membership and it shall consist of sections, affiliated groups and individual members.
4. The directive authority for the conduct of the affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is vested in the International Council.
5. Between meetings of the International Council, the International Executive Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL and for the implementation of the decisions of the International Council.
6. The day-to-day affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL shall be conducted by the International Secretariat headed by a Secretary General under the direction of the International Executive Committee.
7. The office of the International Secretariat shall be in London or such other place as the International Executive Committee shall decide and which is ratified by at least one half of the sections.
8. Responsibility for AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL work on violations of human rights in any country or territory, including the collection and evaluation of information, and the sending of delegations, lies with the international governing bodies of the organization, and not with the section, groups or members in the country or territory concerned.

Sections

9. A section of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL may be established in any coun-

try, state or territory with the consent of the International Executive Committee. In order to be recognized as such, a section shall (a) prior to its recognition have demonstrated its ability to organize and maintain basic AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL activities, (b) consist of not less than two groups and 20 members, (c) submit its statute to the International Executive Committee for approval, (d) pay such annual fee as may be determined by the International Council, (e) be registered as such with the International Secretariat on the decision of the International Executive Committee. Sections shall take no action on matters that do not fall within the stated object and mandate of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. The International Secretariat shall maintain a register of sections. Sections shall act in accordance with the working rules and guidelines that are adopted from time to time by the International Council.

10. Groups of not less than five members may, on payment of an annual fee determined by the International Council, become affiliated to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL or a section thereof. Any dispute as to whether a group should be or remain affiliated shall be decided by the International Executive Committee. An affiliated adoption group shall accept for adoption such prisoners as may from time to time be allotted to it by the International Secretariat, and shall adopt no others as long as it remains affiliated to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. No group shall be allotted a prisoner of conscience detained in its own country. Each section shall maintain and make available to the International Secretariat a register of affiliated AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL groups. Groups in a country without a section shall be registered with the International Secretariat. Groups shall take no action on matters that do not fall within the stated object and mandate of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. Groups shall act in accordance with the working rules and guidelines that are adopted from time to time by the International Council.

Individual membership

11. Individuals residing in countries where there is no section may, on payment to the International Secretariat of an annual subscription fee determined by the International Executive Committee, become members of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL with the consent of the International Executive Committee. In countries where a section exists, individuals may become international members of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL with the consent of the section and of the International Executive Committee. The International Secretariat shall maintain a register of such members.

International Council

12. The International Council shall consist of the members of the International Executive Committee and of representatives of sections and shall meet at intervals of not more than two years on a date fixed by the International Executive Committee. Only representatives of sections shall have the right to vote on the International Council.
13. All sections shall have the right to appoint one representative to the International Council and in addition may appoint representatives as follows:

10 — 49 groups: 1 representative
50 — 99 groups: 2 representatives
100 — 199 groups: 3 representatives
200 — 399 groups: 4 representatives
400 groups or over: 5 representatives

Sections consisting primarily of individual members rather than groups may as an alternative appoint additional representatives as follows:

500 — 2,499 groups: 1 representative
2,500 and over: 2 representatives

Only sections having paid in full their annual fee as assessed by the International

Council for the two previous financial years shall vote at the International Council. This requirement may be waived in whole or in part by the International Council.

14. One representative of each group not forming part of a section may attend a meeting of the International Council as an observer and may speak thereat but shall not be entitled to vote.
15. A section unable to participate at an International Council may appoint a proxy or proxies to vote on its behalf and a section represented by a lesser number of persons than its entitlement under Article 13 hereof may authorize its representative or representatives to cast votes up to its maximum entitlement under Article 13 hereof.
16. Notice of the number of representatives proposing to attend an International Council, and of the appointment of proxies, shall be given to the International Secretariat not later than one month before the meeting of the International Council. This requirement may be waived by the International Executive Committee.
17. A quorum shall consist of the representatives or proxies of not less than one quarter of the sections entitled to be represented.
18. The Chairperson of the International Council and an alternate shall be elected by the preceding International Council. The Chairperson or, in his or her absence, the alternate, shall preside at the International Council. In the absence of the Chairperson and the alternate, the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee or such other person as the International Executive Committee may appoint shall open the proceedings of the International Council which shall elect a Chairperson. Thereafter the elected Chairperson, or such other person as the Chairperson may appoint, shall preside at the International Council.
19. Except as otherwise provided in the Statute, the International Council shall make its decisions by a simple majority of the votes cast. In case of an equality of votes the Chairperson of the International Council shall have a casting vote.
20. The International Council shall be convened by the International Secretariat by notice to all sections and affiliated groups not later than 90 days before the date thereof.
21. The Chairperson of the International Executive Committee shall at the request of the Committee or of not less than one third of the sections call an extraordinary meeting of the International Council by giving not less than 21 days' notice in writing to all sections.
22. The International Council shall elect a Treasurer, who shall be a member of the International Executive Committee.
23. The agenda for the meetings of the International Council shall be prepared by the International Secretariat under the direction of the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee.

International Executive Committee

24. a) The International Executive Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, one representative of the staff of the International Secretariat and seven regular members, who shall be members of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, or of a section, or of an affiliated group. The regular members and Treasurer shall be elected by the International Council. Not more than one member of any section or affiliated group or member of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL voluntarily resident in a country may be elected as a regular member to the Committee, and once such member has received sufficient votes to be elected, any votes cast for other members of that section, affiliated group or country shall be disregarded.

- b) Members of the permanent staff, paid and unpaid, shall have the right to elect one representative among the staff who has completed not less than two years' service to be a voting member of the International Executive Committee. Such member shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election. The method of voting shall be subject to approval by the International Executive Committee on the proposal of the staff members.
25. The International Executive Committee shall meet not less than twice a year at a place to be decided by itself.
 26. Members of the International Executive Committee, other than the representative of the staff, shall hold office for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-election for a maximum tenure of three consecutive terms.
 27. The Committee may co-opt not more than two additional members who shall hold office until the close of the next meeting of the International Council; they shall be eligible to be re-elected once. Co-opted members shall not have the right to vote.
 28. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee, other than in respect of the representative of the staff, it may co-opt a further member to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the International Council, which shall elect such members as are necessary to replace retiring members and to fill the vacancy. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee in respect of the representative of the staff, the staff shall have the right to elect a successor representative to fill the unexpired term of office.
 29. If a member of the Committee is unable to attend a meeting, such member may appoint an alternate.
 30. The Committee shall each year appoint one of its members to act as Chairperson.
 31. The Chairperson may, and at the request of the majority of the Committee shall, summon meetings of the Committee.
 32. A quorum shall consist of not less than five members of the Committee or their alternates.
 33. The agenda for meetings of the Committee shall be prepared by the International Secretariat under the direction of the Chairperson.
 34. The Committee may make regulations for the conduct of the affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL and for the procedure to be followed at the International Council.
- ### International Secretariat
35. The International Executive Committee may appoint a Secretary General who shall be responsible under its direction for the conduct of the affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL and for the implementation of the decisions of the International Council.
 36. The Secretary General may, after consultation with the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee, and subject to confirmation by that Committee, appoint such executive and professional staff as are necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, and may appoint such other staff as are necessary.
 37. In the case of the absence or illness of the Secretary General, or of a vacancy in the post of Secretary General, the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee shall, after consultation with the members of that Committee, appoint an Acting Secretary General to act until the next meeting of the Committee.
 38. The Secretary General or Acting Secretary General and such members of the International Secretariat as may appear to the Chairperson of the International Executive Committee to be necessary shall attend meetings of the International

Council and of the International Executive Committee and may speak thereat but shall not be entitled to vote.

Termination of membership

39. Membership of or affiliation to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL may be terminated at any time by resignation in writing.
40. The International Executive Committee may deprive a section, affiliated group (Article 10) or a member (Article 11) of membership of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL if in its opinion that section, affiliated group or member does not act within the spirit of the object, mandate and methods set out in Articles 1 and 2 or does not organize and maintain basic AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL activities or does not observe any of the provisions of this Statute. Before taking such action, the section, affiliated group or member and, when the deprivation of membership of a section is considered, all other sections will be informed in writing of the grounds on which it is proposed to deprive it or such person of membership, and such section, affiliated group or member shall be provided with an opportunity of presenting its or such member's case to the International Executive Committee. Once the International Executive Committee has decided to take such action in respect of a section, affiliated group or member, the section, affiliated group or member may appeal to the Membership Appeals Committee. This committee shall consist of five members and two alternate members who shall be elected by the International Council in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as provided for in Article

24a) for the International Executive Committee. Once deprived of membership, a section, affiliated group or member may no longer use the name of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

Finance

41. An auditor appointed by the International Council shall annually audit the accounts of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, which shall be prepared by the International Secretariat and presented to the International Executive Committee and the International Council.
42. No part of the income or property of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL shall directly or indirectly be paid or transferred otherwise than for valuable and sufficient consideration to any of its members by way of dividend, gift, division, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit.

Amendments of Statute

43. The Statute may be amended by the International Council by a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes cast. Amendments may be submitted by the International Executive Committee or by a section. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the International Secretariat not less than nine months before the International Council meets, and presentation to the International Council shall be supported in writing by at least five sections. Proposed amendments shall be communicated by the International Secretariat to all sections and to members of the International Executive Committee.

Part 2

**Official Amnesty International texts about
human rights and related issues**

Amnesty International and the use of violence

(This explanation of Amnesty International's policy on the use of violence for political ends is based on a statement prepared by a sub-committee established by its International Council in Vienna in 1973. The sub-committee was asked to consider the question of violence within Amnesty International's Statute. It has been updated following the International Council in Yokohama in 1991.)

From the Statute of Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a worldwide voluntary movement that works to prevent some of the gravest violations by governments of people's fundamental human rights. The main focus of its campaigning is to:

- **free all prisoners of conscience.**
These are people detained anywhere for their beliefs or because of their ethnic origin, sex, colour or language — who have not used or advocated violence;
- **ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners;**
- **abolish the death penalty, torture and other cruel treatment of prisoners;**
- **end extrajudicial executions and "disappearances".**

When Amnesty International was launched in 1961, its original focus was on the release of those who were detained in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and who had *not used or advocated violence*. The non-violence clause was thus of the essence of the movement from its foundation, and was an important factor in attracting widespread support from people in all walks of life and of every political persuasion.

Since then, people have frequently queried this restriction and urged that Amnesty International's work be extended to those who, according to the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "have been compelled, as a last resort, to have recourse to violence against tyranny and oppression". The vast majority of the Amnesty International membership, however, has always remained firmly opposed to the extension of Amnesty International's work *for the release of prisoners* to those who have been involved in violence and this position is in fact generally

understood and accepted by those outside the movement.

The explanations and justifications for this position can be summed up as follows:

Amnesty International may act for those who have been involved in violence

The reproach that Amnesty International refuses to concern itself with prisoners who have been compelled to have resort to violence is based on a misunderstanding. Amnesty International's work now has several aspects. These include the release of prisoners of conscience, but also extend to fair trials for political prisoners, the abolition of torture and the death penalty and ending extrajudicial executions and "disappearances".

These latter aspects of its work have assumed growing importance. Thus, Amnesty International intervenes through a variety of techniques to prevent the imposition of the death penalty on, or the torture or ill-treatment of, all prisoners, whether involved in violence or not, as well as opposing extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" in all cases.

Furthermore, Amnesty International will not necessarily consider a prisoner excluded from its definition of prisoner of conscience, unless he or she has been convicted of offences involving the use or advocacy of violence after a fair trial in a court of law. By decision of the 1991 International Council, individuals who have used violence in "clear and unambiguous instances of individual self-defence" may be taken up as prisoners of conscience. In the case of prisoners, whether accused or suspected of violence or not, who have been detained for a long period without trial, it may intervene to seek to ensure their trial or release. Also, a prisoner may be adopted if he or she is kept in detention after completing his or her sentence for an act of violence.

Amnesty International takes no moral stand on the issue of violence

It sometimes seems to be thought that Amnesty International, as an organization, is opposed to the use of violence in any circumstances. This is not so. Amnesty International's position is entirely impartial. Amnesty International was not founded to work for general economic, social and political justice in the various countries of the world — however much its individual members may wish to do so, and are free to do so through other bodies — but to bring relief to individual victims of injustice. It has been built up to do this, and is uniquely equipped to do it. The question of whether resort to violence is justified or not is extraneous to this central task.

A question of effectiveness

Amnesty International's work is based on the support of a mass membership and involves interventions with governments of all political persuasions, and collaboration with and action through international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental. It is therefore essential that Amnesty International should command the confidence and respect of all these categories and should not only be, but be seen by them, to be impartial.

Amnesty International now has more than 1,100,000 members, subscribers and regular donors from all political affiliations, pacifists as well as people convinced that in some or many parts of the world violence is the only means of overcoming the even greater violence now being practised by those in power. From this point of view the clause is basically a necessary limitation to enable people across the political spectrum to work together.

Although most members would probably consider as individuals that there are some situations where violent action is the only solution, the membership would not agree on what those situations are. Amnesty International's membership must be universal, and include members of the right willing to intervene in countries with a government of the right and members of the left willing to intervene in countries with a government of the left. Interventions of this kind are clearly more effective than those by the prisoner's political sympathizers.

With regard to governments, Amnesty International's influence depends on the fact that governments accept it as an independent organization, politically impartial in relation both to it and to its opposition. If Amnesty International began to demand the release of those who have been involved in violent opposition to the government it would become identified with the opposition in the government's mind and lose its credit and its influence. Not only would such demands for release be ineffective, but its work for non-violent prisoners and for the humane treatment of those who have used violence would suffer.

Similarly, Amnesty International's standing with international organizations — such as the United Nations, the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States and the Council of Europe — would be endangered, and its initiatives would lose the authority which comes from its independence and impartiality.

Finally, if Amnesty International became identified in governments' minds with certain opposition groups, its value to those very opposition groups would be diminished. At the present time, they are able to and do refer to Amnesty International pronouncements as those of an outside, impartial body to whose views the governments will attach more weight than to their own. Further, members of such groups have, when Amnesty International's position is explained to them, fully accepted it, and recognize that it is a condition of Amnesty International's effectiveness in the fields in which it does seek to help them.

A practical problem

While it is a secondary consideration, it is certain that the problems of delineating violent political actions as against violent criminal actions would be almost insuperable and subject to all manner of subjective political preconceptions. The introduction of such concepts would inevitably lead to dissensions on the basis of the political beliefs of the membership which, under the present system, can remain irrelevant to the individual's action as a member of Amnesty International.

An argument of principle

It must be remembered that one aspect of Amnesty International's work is to ensure humane (i.e. non-violent) treatment for prisoners and other victims. Amnesty International would be applying a double standard if it insisted that the police and prison authorities abstain from violating human rights

yet maintained that those on the other side should be allowed to commit abuses and yet not be brought to justice. It can and does insist that governments respect international humanitarian standards, but it would discredit itself if it maintained that the very abuses which it is seeking to eliminate from state practices are justified when used by the opposition.

Amnesty International and peace issues — an explanatory note

Does Amnesty International work for peace?

Amnesty International has a precise mandate: it works for the release of prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners and an end to torture and executions. The organization takes no position on issues that fall outside this mandate. It therefore takes no position on various proposals for disarmament or other suggestions for the protection of peace.

Amnesty International's work is nevertheless relevant to work for peace insofar as both are based on respect for life. This relationship is reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states: "the inalienable rights of all members of the human family [are] the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world". Amnesty International's activities, determined by the specific nature of its objectives, contribute to these rights, a fact recognized by the Nobel Committee in 1977 when it awarded Amnesty International the prize for peace.

In the course of its work Amnesty International encounters issues or situations which may be commonly understood to be related to questions of peace: armed conflicts; conscientious objection; military, security and police transfers; the detention of peace advocates who thereby become prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International's positions in these areas are outlined below.

Does Amnesty International have a position on violence in general?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states in its preface that it is essential that human rights be protected if people are not to be compelled, as a last resort, to rebel against tyranny and oppression. Amnesty International takes no position in principle on whether or in what circumstances it would be legitimate to resort to violence as a means to political ends. It neither opposes nor supports military defence by or armed struggle against established governments, nor is it a pacifist organization.

Does Amnesty International work for prisoners who have used violence?

Amnesty International does not consider as prisoners of conscience those who have been detained because they have used or advocated violence. It maintains, however, that all political prisoners have the right to a fair and prompt trial as well as protection against ill-treatment, torture and execution, regardless of whether they are accused or suspected of the use or advocacy of violence.

Does Amnesty International react against abuses by opposition groups?

Amnesty International opposes abuses by opposition groups: hostage taking, the torture and killing of prisoners and other arbitrary killings. It holds that governments have the responsibility for dealing with these abuses, acting in conformity with international human rights standards.

Some organizations exert territorial control and have established administrations similar to those of governments. Amnesty International approaches such entities on any concerns falling within its mandate. That should not be interpreted as a position on the legitimacy of such an administration.

What is Amnesty International's role in situations of armed conflict?

The rights of civilians are often violated during armed conflicts. As elsewhere, Amnesty International is concerned about prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners and the prevention of executions and torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of prisoners. Amnesty International also seeks to prevent the *refoulement* of refugees to areas where they are in danger of becoming the targets of such violations.

The difficulties in obtaining and assessing information about human rights violations tend to increase in times of war. There may also be difficulties in communicating with responsible authorities. This, however, does not alter

the nature of Amnesty International's mandate concerns: they are the same during armed conflicts as in peacetime.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has a leading role in providing protection for victims of armed conflict and facilitating exchanges of prisoners of war. Amnesty International's main function in this context is to contribute to the prevention of torture and executions.

What is Amnesty International's position on conscientious objectors?

Amnesty International considers as prisoners of conscience those who have been imprisoned because of their refusal to do military service and have not been offered a non-punitive alternative service outside the military administration. The organization presses for legislative reforms which would protect this right to conscientious objection against military service and the provision of an alternative which is not punitive in its length or character.

Does Amnesty International have a position on military transfers between countries?

Amnesty International has no position on the production or export of arms, military equipment and technology in general. It is con-

cerned about the transfer of military, security and police material or expertise which is used for human rights violations within its mandate. It opposes such transfers when it has been able to establish a clear connection between them and human rights violations. It also presses for legislative reforms which would prevent such exports.

What relations does Amnesty International have with peace organizations?

Recognizing that the work for peace is relevant to the promotion of human rights, Amnesty International is open to contacts with peace organizations. It welcomes information from them on concerns within Amnesty International's mandate and is itself prepared to provide factual information as a basis for actions by peace groups. However, in order to protect its policy of independence and impartiality — and the public understanding of that position — Amnesty International must take care not to be identified with any outside group or interest. Therefore, it does not, as a rule, undertake joint action with other organizations. Amnesty International members are, of course, entirely free to support, in their personal capacity, any other groups or organizations.

Twelve-point program for the prevention of torture

(The 12-Point Program was adopted by Amnesty International in October 1983 as part of the organization's Campaign for the Abolition of Torture.)

Torture is a fundamental violation of human rights condemned by the General Assembly of the United Nations as an offence to human dignity and prohibited under national and international law.

Yet torture persists, daily and across the globe. In Amnesty International's experience, legislative prohibition is not enough. Immediate steps are needed to confront torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment wherever they occur and to eradicate them totally.

Amnesty International calls on all governments to implement the following 12-Point Program for the Prevention of Torture. It invites concerned individuals and organizations to join in promoting the program. Amnesty International believes that the implementation of these measures is a positive indication of a government's commitment to abolish torture and to work for its abolition worldwide.

1. Official condemnation of torture

The highest authorities of every country should demonstrate their total opposition to torture. They should make clear to all law-enforcement personnel that torture will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

2. Limits on incommunicado detention

Torture often takes place while the victims are held incommunicado — unable to contact people outside who could help them or find out what is happening to them. Governments should adopt safeguards to ensure that incommunicado detention does not become an opportunity for torture. It is vital that all prisoners be brought before a judicial authority promptly after being taken into custody and that relatives, lawyers and doctors have prompt and regular access to them.

3. No secret detention

In some countries torture takes place in secret centres, often after the victims are made to "disappear". Governments should ensure that prisoners are held in publicly recognized places, and that accurate information about their whereabouts is made available to relatives and lawyers.

4. Safeguards during interrogation and custody

Governments should keep procedures for detention and interrogation under regular review. All prisoners should be promptly told of their rights, including the right to lodge complaints about their treatment. There should be regular independent visits of inspection to places of detention. An important safeguard against torture would be the separation of authorities responsible for detention from those in charge of interrogation.

5. Independent investigation of reports of torture

Governments should ensure that all complaints and reports of torture are impartially and effectively investigated. The methods and findings of such investigations should be made public. Complainants and witnesses should be protected from intimidation.

6. No use of statements extracted under torture

Governments should ensure that confessions or other evidence obtained through torture may never be invoked in legal proceedings.

7. Prohibition of torture in law

Governments should ensure that acts of torture are punishable offences under the criminal law. In accordance with international law, the prohibition of torture must not be suspended under any circumstance, including states of war or other public emergency.

8. Prosecution of alleged torturers

Those responsible for torture should be brought to justice. This principle should apply wherever they happen to be, wherever the crime was committed and whatever the nationality of the perpetrators or victims. There should be no "safe haven" for torturers.

9. Training procedures

It should be made clear during the training of all officials involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of prisoners that torture is a criminal act. They should be instructed that they are obliged to refuse to obey any order to torture.

10. Compensation and rehabilitation

Victims of torture and their dependants should be entitled to obtain financial compensation. Victims should be provided with appropriate medical care and rehabilitation.

11. International response

Governments should use all available channels to intercede with governments accused of torture. Intergovernmental mechanisms should be established and used to investigate reports of torture urgently and to take effective action against it. Governments should ensure that military, security or police transfers or training do not facilitate the practice of torture.

12. Ratification of international instruments

All governments should ratify international instruments containing safeguards and remedies against torture, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol which provides for individual complaints.

Declaration of Stockholm

(Adopted by the Amnesty International Conference on the Abolition of the Death Penalty, Stockholm, December 1977)

The Stockholm Conference on the Abolition of the Death Penalty, composed of more than 200 delegates and participants from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North and South America and the Caribbean region.

Recalls that:

- The death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and violates the right to life.

Considers that:

- The death penalty is frequently used as an instrument of repression against opposition, racial, ethnic, religious and underprivileged groups,
- Execution is an act of violence, and violence tends to provoke violence,
- The imposition and infliction of the death penalty is brutalizing to all who are involved in the process,
- The death penalty has never been shown to have a special deterrent effect,
- The death penalty is increasingly taking the form of unexplained "disappearances", extrajudicial executions and political murders,
- Execution is irrevocable and can be inflicted on the innocent.

Affirms that:

- It is the duty of the state to protect the life of all persons within its jurisdiction without exception,
- Executions for the purpose of political coercion, whether by government agencies or others, are equally unacceptable,
- Abolition of the death penalty is imperative for the achievement of declared international standards.

Declares:

- Its total and unconditional opposition to the death penalty,
- Its condemnation of all executions, in whatever form, committed or condoned by governments,
- Its commitment to work for the universal abolition of the death penalty.

Calls upon:

- Non-governmental organizations, both national and international, to work collectively and individually to provide public information materials directed towards the abolition of the death penalty,
- All governments to bring about the immediate and total abolition of the death penalty,
- The United Nations unambiguously to declare that the death penalty is contrary to international law.

Guideline on Extrajudicial Executions

(Decision 7 of the 1987 International Council, as amended by Decision 2 of the 1989 International Council. Note that Decision 24 of the 1991 International Council added that Amnesty International will treat as extrajudicial executions falling within the mandate killings of people solely for trying to leave the country.)

1. Amnesty International is unconditionally opposed to extrajudicial executions.
2. Amnesty International is aware that governments sometimes engage in intentional killings of persons without placing such persons in detention or after placing them in detention. Sometimes the government knowingly permits others to carry out such killings and subsequently condones them.
3. Amnesty International will, therefore, in keeping with its opposition to the death penalty in all forms, take action against such killings perpetrated either within or outside the country when it is reasonable to believe they are part of a consistent pattern or can otherwise reasonably be assumed to be the result of a policy at any level of government to eliminate, or to permit deliberately the elimination of, specific individuals, or groupings or categories of individuals.
3. "murder" by the government. There are many killings by state agents, particularly in the area of enforcement of criminal laws, which it is not intended by this guideline to bring into Amnesty International's mandate — for example, killings which the perpetrator believed were necessary for the physical defence of him or herself or others, and killings carried out in deviation from an enforced official policy. The guideline makes it clear that "government" includes the state or local level of government.
3. The guideline mentions "consistent pattern". This is not an essential element of the definition of extrajudicial execution (EJE). An isolated killing can be an EJE according to this guideline, and this is clear from the text. However, the words "consistent pattern" are included to reflect the fact that EJEs are very often extremely difficult to prove, and a pattern will often be necessary evidence in establishing that the government is behind killings.

Commentary

1. This guideline envisages a widening of the mandate regarding deliberate killings of people who are not prisoners. Amnesty International will in its mandate no longer distinguish between the political and non-political character of victims.
2. The guideline specifies that the government must have either "engaged in" or "knowingly permitted...and condoned" intentional killings of individuals. It is essential that the latter concept be properly understood. It is intended to refer to killings which the government *wanted to happen*. Another way of putting this is
4. What Amnesty International will always look for is a wilful government policy of killing people or having them killed. A national law on use of force in law-enforcement which is more permissive than international standards on the subject may be evidence of such a policy, but it will not be conclusive self-sufficient evidence. Nor will it in itself be separate grounds for Amnesty International action. Likewise, failure to prosecute perpetrators of killings will be evidence, but not self-sufficient evidence of government policy. Nor will it be a separate ground for Amnesty International action — it would be highly problematic for Amnesty

International to hinge an action on the prosecution of a particular individual.

5. The definition is applicable in times of armed conflict, but does not include killings which are the "by-product of government attempts to achieve military objectives in time of armed conflict". What is meant by this? The following description of a massacre on which Amnesty International acted several years ago indicates the kind of case Amnesty International will take up in armed conflict (the words in

square brackets have been added for clarity):

"...that the killings did not take place in a [an immediate] context of fighting, that the victims were manifestly non-combatant, that they were being singled out for their imputed political sympathies, that they were deliberately rendered vulnerable to attack, and that the shooting was aimed at civilians and persistent."

Guidelines for Amnesty International's policy on conscientious objection to military service

(Decision 5 of the 1987 International Council. Note that Decision 10 of the 1991 International Council stated that the guidelines should be revised to make clear that Amnesty International's policy regarding those individuals in the armed forces who develop objections to participation in the armed forces applies to conscripts and others in the armed forces, including volunteers, without distinction; and to make express reference to selective objectors.)

1. A conscientious objector is understood to be a person liable to conscription for military service, or to register for conscription for military service (even where there is no military service), who, for reasons of conscience or profound conviction arising from religious, ethical, moral, humanitarian, philosophical, political or similar motives refuses to perform armed service or any other direct or indirect participation in wars or armed conflicts.
 - e) he or she is imprisoned as a consequence of his or her leaving the armed forces without authorization for reasons of conscience developed after conscription into the armed forces, if he or she has taken such reasonable steps to secure his or her release by lawful means as might grant him or her release from the military obligations on the grounds of conscience or if he or she did not use those means because he or she has been deprived of reasonable access to the knowledge of them;
 - f) there is not a right to alternative service which is of purely civilian character and under civilian control;
 - g) the length of the alternative service is deemed as punishment, determined on the basis of all relevant factors including:
 - whether the authorities have indicated that the length of alternative service is intended to be punitive as compared with military service;
 - whether the authorities have failed to offer adequate justification as to the non-punitive nature of any period of time by which alternative service exceeds that of military service;
 - whether time spent in alternative service exceeds the total amount of time spent in military service, including basic training or reserve duty.
2. Where a person is detained/imprisoned because he or she claims that he or she on the grounds of conscience described in paragraph 1 above objects to military service, or to registering for conscription to military service, Amnesty International will consider him or her a prisoner of conscience, if his or her imprisonment/detention is a consequence of one or more of the following reasons:
 - a) the legal code of a country does not contain provisions for the recognition of conscientious objection and for a person to register his or her objection at a specific point in time;
 - b) a person is refused the right to register his or her objection;
 - c) the recognition of conscientious objection is so restricted that only some and not all of the above-mentioned grounds of conscience or profound conviction are acceptable;
 - d) a person does not have the right to claim conscientious objection on the above-mentioned grounds of conscience or profound conviction developed after conscription into the armed forces;
3. Where there is a provision for conscientious objection which satisfies the criteria in paragraph 2, a person should not be considered a prisoner of conscience if he or she is not willing to

state to the decision-making authorities the reason for his or her conscientious objection, where this is required by the law of the country, unless this reason can be inferred from all the circumstances of the case.

4. A person should, however, not be considered a prisoner of conscience if he or she is offered and refuses comparable alternative service which is of a purely civilian character and under civilian control.

Amnesty International's stand relating to military, economic and cultural relations and on military, security and police transfers

(These guidelines were adopted by the 1983 International Council and updated on the basis of Decision B17 of the 1991 International Council.)

1. MEC "Target Sector" work

[The International Council] Reaffirms

- 1.1 That Amnesty International should disseminate its external information on human rights in different countries in a systematic way to parties which are active in the military, economic and cultural fields (MEC "target sectors").
- 1.2 That the purpose of this activity may sometimes be to prod these parties into using their influence in support of human rights within Amnesty International's mandate in their dealings with the governments concerned. However, in such cases, note should be taken of the possible limitations and pitfalls as elaborated in 1982 International Council (ICM) Decision 22 ("Guidelines for Approaching Companies", reproduced in document POL 34/05/82). Where applicable, all approaches to MEC "target sectors" should conform to the provisions of those guidelines.
- 1.3 That potential effectiveness should be the guiding principle determining when to approach MEC "target sectors", which ones to approach and the requests to be made of them ("timing and targeting").
- 1.4 That this type of work should be undertaken by the International Secretariat (IS) with respect to international MEC "target sectors", but recognizes that the bulk of the work will be "decentralized", and calls on sections as well as the IS to give it the necessary priority.
- 1.5 That all Amnesty International action is bound by the following principles:

a) Amnesty International does not address itself to the general economic or political system in operation in any country; only to that country's observance of human rights within Amnesty International's mandate. Consequently, Amnesty International abstains from drawing conclusions of a "political" nature from its information;

b) Amnesty International takes no stand on the legitimacy of military, economic or cultural relations being maintained with countries where human rights are violated and takes no position on punitive measures of any kind, such as sanctions or boycotts.

- 1.6 That when approaching MEC "target sectors", Amnesty International should inform them of the above principles, of its statutory objects and of its concerns in the relevant country or countries.
- 1.7 That approaches to MEC "target sectors" should be frank and open rather than of a secretive or confidential nature.

Requests

- 1.8 The International Executive Committee (IEC) to explore and report back on:
 - a) The prospects and means of urging agencies responsible for international aid to require potential receiving governments to provide information about human rights in their countries along with the normal economic data.
 - b) Whether Amnesty International should press for human rights issues

to be included in codes of conduct for transnational corporations, in particular in the case of the proposed code of the United Nations.

2. Legislation on MSP transfers

Supports

- 2.1 The introduction of legislation and regulations in all supplier countries, requiring the human rights situation in receiving countries to be taken into consideration prior to decisions being made about military, security and police (MSP) transfers.

Proclaims

- 2.2 That Amnesty International's position is such that such laws should prohibit MSP transfers from taking place unless it can be reasonably demonstrated that such transfers will not contribute to human rights violations within Amnesty International's mandate. Such laws will aim to ensure that the sender should take responsibility for the use of MSP transfers in practice, such laws may be broader and more comprehensive than Amnesty International's position.

Resolves

- 2.3 That in campaigning for legislation on MSP transfers Amnesty International can make comments on existing or drafted legislation relating to Amnesty International's objectives and position.
- 2.4 That Amnesty International may express its support in principle for those clauses of the proposed legislation which accommodate Amnesty International's objectives and position, and oppose the repeal of such clauses once they have been enacted.
- 2.5 That the legislation should be precise in its terms and concrete in its procedures, avoiding ambiguities and minimizing the scope for interpretation which could contradict the purpose of

the law. It should provide for the legislature to be notified of all information necessary to enable it to exercise proper control over the implementation of the law, for all MSP transfers to be publicly disclosed in advance, for reports to be issued on the human rights situation in the receiving countries and for effective channels to be established for receiving information from non-governmental organizations.

- 2.6 That once legislation has been enacted, Amnesty International could submit its information on the human rights situation in relevant countries to the appropriate bodies designated by the legislation to consider such information.
- 2.7 That, where feasible, support should be given to practical efforts to complement these types of control with suitable mechanisms at the international level, which could include registering all MSP transfers on a global or regional scale; and requests the .EC to keep this matter under review.

Urges

- 2.8 All Amnesty International sections in supplier countries to strive for the introduction of appropriate national legislation in their home countries. The IS should assist these efforts by sections, particularly by coordinating joint section initiatives where practicable.

Resolves

- 2.9 That in supplier countries where no Amnesty International section exists, or at the request of an Amnesty International section with regard to its own country, the IS could make such approaches. In any country where there is no Amnesty International section, but Amnesty International groups, the IS should in principle consult with such groups before making any approaches.

Further resolves

- 2.10 That, on grounds of potential abuse, Amnesty International should take no part in the drafting of human rights training programs for MSP personnel from countries where human rights within Amnesty International's mandate are systematically and persistently violated. However, this would not prevent Amnesty International from clarifying that international human rights instruments should routinely be part of the training of all MSP personnel.

3. Action on MSP transfers

Affirms

- 3.1 That Amnesty International is in principle opposed to MSP transfers which are used for human rights violations within Amnesty International's mandate.
- 3.2 That Amnesty International neither supports nor opposes sanctions against governments guilty of human rights violations.

Resolves

- 3.3 That Amnesty International sections may ask "searching questions" of the supplier government and companies in their home countries about the use to which intended MSP transfers will be put by the receiver government.
- 3.4 That in supplier countries where no Amnesty International section exists, or at the request of an Amnesty International section with regard to its own country, the IS could ask "searching questions". In any country where there is not Amnesty International section, but Amnesty International groups, the IS should in principle consult such groups before asking "searching questions".
- 3.5 That such questions could draw attention to the danger of the MSP transfer

being used in the receiving country for the violation of human rights within Amnesty International's mandate, but should contain no demand, explicit or implicit, that the transfer be stopped. Where appropriate, such actions could be publicized.

- 3.6 That all such actions must be approved by the board or executive of the Amnesty International section concerned in prior consultation with the appropriate IS staff, whose role is to advise on country strategy and on the probable impact and effectiveness of alternative proposals.
- 3.7 That in the event of serious disagreement between the Amnesty International section and the IS staff, the section should refer the matter to the IEC for decision if it wishes to pursue its preferred course.

Further resolves

- 3.8 (a) That Amnesty International may oppose MSP transfers that can reasonably be assumed to contribute to human rights violations within Amnesty International's mandate.
- (b) That a call for the cessation of an MSP transfer requires the mutual agreement of a section of the supplier country and the IS. In case of disagreement, a section may refer the issue to the IEC for final determination.
- 3.10 The 1991 International Council decided that all proposed calls for cessation of MSP transfers require the mutual agreement of the section supplier country and the IS. In case of disagreement a section may refer the issue to the IEC for final determination. However, the International Council did not amend the old paragraph 3.10 in the light of its decision. The IEC is presently preparing an amended text for the guidelines.

[The old text of paragraph 3.10 reads as follows:

That all proposed calls for cessation of MSP transfers be referred to the IEC which should consider the effectiveness of a proposed action which, among other things, should involve assessing its consistency with the country strategy. The IEC should report and explain its decision to the relevant section.]

Asserts

3.11 That Amnesty International's opposition to certain human rights violations committed by governments extends to the conscious collusion or unconscious collaboration of non-governmental parties in their commission, be they individuals, organizations or corporations. In such cases, on the authority

of the IEC, Amnesty International may expose, publicize, appeal to, or campaign against, such parties with a view to their ceasing their collaborative actions.

3.12 That all accusations, explicit or implicit, of complicity, collaboration or collusion on the part of second governments or non-governmental parties in the commission by governments of human rights violations within Amnesty International's mandate be confined to specific instances according to the relevant provisions of this decision; and that any such accusation be made only with the approval of the IEC in each case.

Amnesty International's stand against abuses by opposition groups

What is the mandate of Amnesty International?

Amnesty International works to prevent some of the gravest violations by governments of people's fundamental human rights. The main focus of its campaigning is to:

- **free all prisoners of conscience.** These are people detained anywhere for their beliefs or because of their ethnic origin, sex, colour or language who have not used or advocated violence;
- **ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners;**
- **abolish the death penalty, torture and other cruel treatment of prisoners;**
- **end extrajudicial executions and "disappearances".**

This mandate is based on human rights principles proclaimed by the international community through the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies. These international standards define the obligations of governments in protecting the rights of individuals. Amnesty International's main task is to ensure that governments respect these commitments.

Does Amnesty International take sides in political conflicts?

Amnesty International is impartial. It does not support or oppose any government or political system. Nor does it support or oppose the views of the prisoners whose rights it seeks to protect. It is concerned solely with the protection of human rights, within its mandate in each case, regardless of the ideological, political or other conflicts involved.

What is Amnesty International's stand on abuses by opposition groups?

Amnesty International opposes abuses by opposition groups: hostage taking, the torture

and killing of prisoners and other arbitrary killings.

Does Amnesty International take a stand on violence?

Amnesty International takes no position on the question of violence. It does not identify itself with any of the parties to a particular conflict, violent or non-violent, nor does it presume to judge in any situation whether recourse to violence is justified or not. It deliberately restricts itself to working for the protection of the human rights that fall within its mandate and does not comment or act on issues that fall outside those terms of reference.

Does Amnesty International act as a mediator?

Amnesty International has sometimes been asked to act as a mediator between governments and opposition groups. It cannot do so. It works by making clear its opposition to specific human rights violations, publishing details about these wherever they occur and making recommendations to the responsible authorities. The organization does not negotiate either with governments or with those in opposition.

What about opposition groups that control territory?

Some groups in opposition to governments have acquired characteristics that in practice make them similar to governments. Amnesty International expects them to respect international human rights standards and appeals to them to do so. When considering whether a group has such characteristics, several factors have to be taken into account. For example, does the group control people in its territory in a way similar to the exercise of government jurisdiction? Is it able to implement procedures for the protection of human rights and

humanitarian law in its territory? Is it recognized by governments and international organizations? An appeal from Amnesty International to such a group or to a government does not imply any legal or international status or recognition; it is aimed strictly at securing the protection of the human rights that Amnesty International seeks to defend everywhere.

Humanitarian law sets out the standards by which all parties to an armed conflict — governments and opposition groups alike — must act. Amnesty International's policy on opposition groups is guided by these standards, much as its work with governments is based on international human rights law.

What does Amnesty International ask governments to do?

When governments infringe the human rights Amnesty International defends, the organization urges them to take all necessary steps to restore these rights. It also holds governments responsible when they act indirectly through, or in complicity with, "death squads" and assassins. Where offences are committed by opposition groups, Amnesty International considers that it is within the jurisdiction of governments to determine criminal responsibility and to bring those responsible to justice. The exercise of such authority by states must conform to their commitments in international law.

Part 3
Official texts about
Amnesty International organization

The Working Rules

(The Working Rules were first adopted by the International Council in 1976. They were subsequently revised in accordance with decisions of the Council and the International Executive Committee.)

These rules do not and cannot cover all questions that arise in Amnesty International's activities. They give the framework within which all members are expected to work. The principle underlying the rules is that all parts of the Amnesty International movement should follow consistent policies and procedures since statements or activities by any member, group or section may be taken as representing the organization as a whole.

Publicity and publications

1. The term "publications" refers to news releases, newsletters, reports, films, sound or video tapes, leaflets and posters intended for public use. All publications must be in accordance with Amnesty International's mandate and respect the organization's standards of accuracy and impartiality.
2. Amnesty International Publications (AIPs) are issued by the International Secretariat (IS) under the authority of the IEC.
3. Amnesty International sections are responsible for all Amnesty International publications, other than AIPs, issued in their country or territory. This applies to their translations of AIPs and external documents issued by the IS as well as to publications drafted by Amnesty International groups in the section. All publications must clearly indicate the authority under which they are issued (for example, "published by the Mexican Section of Amnesty International").
4. Any publication prepared by an Amnesty International section that includes information other than that based on recent external Amnesty International information must be submitted for comment and approval to the IS. Sections are advised to consult the Secretariat before issuing any major publication on a country or issue, even if it is based on external Amnesty International information, to ensure proper coordination of international efforts.
5. Amnesty International sections are required to draw up guidelines for their membership on relations with the news media in their country or territory. They are to appoint a press officer responsible for coordination of all such relations and for liaison with the Press Office of the IS.
6. Any news release, information material or statement to be issued to the news media by an Amnesty International section, other than that based on recent external Amnesty International information, must be submitted for comment and approval to the IS.
7. An Amnesty International section wishing to mention or list names of prisoners in a publication or statement is required to use only names of prisoners whose cases have been allocated to groups in that section or mentioned in recent external Amnesty International information.
8. Groups must strictly observe the instructions in all prisoner dossiers about publicity on particular cases.
9. Amnesty International sections are responsible for the preparation and use of audio-visual materials in their country or territory. Care must be taken to ensure that they reflect Amnesty International's mandate and conform to its standards of accuracy and impartiality. In particular, the abuse of national symbols should be avoided.
10. The IEC has the authority to review and if necessary prohibit any document

or statement by an Amnesty International section if there is reason to believe that it would create undesirable international repercussions. The IEC also has the right to disclaim publicly any publication not issued in accordance with the procedures and guidelines established by the ICM.

Statements on members' countries

11. Amnesty International sections are not empowered to make statements or to issue publications about the human rights situation in their own countries or territories, apart from matters to do with ratification of treaties and changes in legislation on the death penalty. Any exceptions to this rule must be decided by the IEC in consultation with the section concerned.
12. In response to inquiries about human rights violations in its own country or territory an Amnesty International section is required to explain that responsibility for Amnesty International policy on such matters lies with the IEC. The section may refer such inquiries to the IS or provide without further elaboration any available Amnesty International external information and state that Amnesty International has taken action on behalf of individual prisoners if this is the case.
13. Amnesty International sections may be provided with copies of AIPs and external documents on their own countries or territories, if they so request, and may distribute such documents.

External relations

14. Amnesty International sections are required to appoint people responsible for contacts with their own government, visits to embassies and contacts with other organizations, and to draw up guidelines and procedures for such contacts.
15. It is not the responsibility of an Amnesty International section to make

representations to its own government about human rights violations in its own country or territory. Such representations are the responsibility of the IEC and of other sections acting on information provided by the IS. An Amnesty International section may make representations to its own government about violations of human rights in its own country or territory only if authorized to do so by the IEC. In making any such authorized representation the section should always stress that its action reflects the concern of the international movement.

16. Amnesty International members should not write to third party governments (governments in countries other than their own or the target country) or representatives of third party governments unless they are specifically requested or authorized to do so by the IS.
17. Relations with international non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations are the responsibility of the IS acting under the authority of the IEC. Amnesty International sections, groups and members should not write to headquarters or officials of intergovernmental bodies (such as the United Nations) or to international non-governmental organizations unless specifically requested to do so by the IS. Sections wishing to approach non-governmental organizations in other countries must consult the Amnesty International section of that country or the IS if there is no section.
18. Amnesty International may provide and exchange external information with other organizations and may send representatives to attend their meetings and speak on matters within Amnesty International's mandate. However, no public actions such as news conferences, demonstrations or public meetings may be organized or sponsored jointly by Amnesty International and any other organization without the

approval of the relevant Amnesty International section governing body. Nor may any group or member sign any other organization's appeals or resolutions in the name of Amnesty International without section approval. The IS advises against any such joint activities with other organizations, particularly on country-related matters. It should be emphasized to other organizations that Amnesty International does not undertake joint activities with other bodies in order to protect its independence and impartiality. This policy does not reflect either approval or disapproval of the aims or judgements of other organizations.

Case work and campaigns

19. Amnesty International sections are expected to inform the IS of their plans for participation in campaigns and actions announced in the Action Calendar issued by the IS. Any plans for other major section campaigns should be discussed with the IS to ensure proper international coordination.
20. Any action initiated by one section (including international appeals on behalf of one prisoner) which would involve members and groups in other sections must not be undertaken without prior consultation with the IS. This includes actions by coordination and professional groups.
21. Amnesty International sections, groups and members are required to send any new prisoner-related information they collect to the IS. Sections, groups or members who wish to do research work are required to consult the IS.
22. Amnesty International groups are required to follow carefully the instructions and recommended actions provided in the *Amnesty International Handbook*, the "general instructions" and "recommended actions" included in each prisoner dossier, and to observe carefully the difference between adoption and investigation cases

as explained in "Status of Case" documents in each dossier. The decision to adopt or investigate any case rests with the IS. No unusual action should be undertaken without prior consultation with the relevant coordination group, section or IS.

23. If a case has been closed by the IS, group activities on the prisoner's behalf must cease. Private initiatives may be undertaken on the prisoner's behalf, but all correspondence must be signed by someone other than the group members who have previously been writing about the case to the authorities.
24. Exiles, refugees and other foreign nationals who are members or supporters of Amnesty International are not permitted to send letters to government authorities in their own country. Where such nationals are members of local groups, they should not be involved in case work on their own country but should work on behalf of other prisoners.

Missions/Amnesty International travel

25. The term "mission" refers to visits to countries by an individual or team to conduct business on behalf of Amnesty International relating to its concerns, or to discuss membership questions on behalf of the IEC. All Amnesty International missions must be approved and funded by the IEC. The briefing of Amnesty International missions is the responsibility of the IS.
26. It is not the responsibility of an Amnesty International section to plan, brief or collaborate with an Amnesty International mission sent to its country or territory.
27. An Amnesty International section shall be notified in advance of a mission to its country or territory, subject to considerations of security and confidentiality. If the section has been notified

of the mission, it may respond to inquiries only by confirming the arrival of the mission and stating its terms of reference.

28. No visit to a country by any Amnesty International member shall be considered an Amnesty International mission unless it has been approved as such by the IEC.
29. Coordination group members are required to consult the IS before travelling to the countries with which their group is concerned. This procedure applies even when they are travelling in their private capacity.
30. Amnesty International members travelling in their private capacity are not authorized to undertake Amnesty International business such as research or work related to relief or individual prisoner cases (including those allocated to their group) without first consulting and receiving the approval of the IS. This procedure does not apply to visits involving normal consultation and discussion within the movement on organizational matters.
31. Amnesty International groups wishing to send members to countries to visit prisoners or prisoners' families are required to consult and obtain the approval of the IS in advance and if possible to obtain the consent of the family before making such a visit. Any other activities (such as distribution of relief, visits to lawyers or contacts) in the course of such a visit are also subject to the approval of the IS. Such visits are not Amnesty International missions and members are not empowered to speak or act in the name of Amnesty International.
32. Amnesty International members travelling in their private capacity or on behalf of other organizations should make every effort to avoid the impression that they represent Amnesty International or are travelling on Amnesty International business. If

asked, they must stress that they have no authority to make any statement related to Amnesty International or its concerns.

33. Amnesty International members travelling in their private capacity to countries in which there are major Amnesty International concerns are advised to inform their section beforehand.

International cooperation

34. All constituent bodies of Amnesty International are expected to cooperate with other parts of the movement in working for the aims of Amnesty International.
35. Local groups must observe the guidelines for double and triple adoptions. Coordination groups must cooperate closely with the relevant coordination groups in other sections. Professional groups must cooperate closely with related professional groups and committees in other sections.
36. Amnesty International sections are required to inform the IS of the names and responsibilities of the elected officers of the section, staff members and other individuals or groups appointed to undertake functions on behalf of the section board. They are also required to inform the Secretariat of the changes of address of their section office, groups and other bodies within the section.
37. Amnesty International sections are required to submit an annual report on their activities to the IEC.
38. Amnesty International groups are required to submit reports on their prisoner-related activity to the IS and their sections every six months. New information obtained about any case should be reported immediately to the IS.
39. Coordination groups and professional groups are required to submit reports

on their activities to the IS and their sections twice a year.

40. No Amnesty International section, group or member shall ask a section, group or member in another country or territory for information about human rights questions or prisoner cases there.
41. Correspondence from Amnesty International members to the IEC must be channelled through their section. Correspondence to the IEC or its individual members should be sent to the Secretary General's Office at the IS.
42. Amnesty International sections may make complaints to the IEC and, if they are not satisfied with the response, to the ICM. In the event of disagreement between a coordination or other group and any part of the IS, the relevant Amnesty International section may bring the matter to the attention of the Secretary General. If the disagreement involves a question of Amnesty International policy and is not resolved the matter shall be referred to the IEC and, if necessary, the ICM. Every effort shall be made to resolve any dispute without publicity.

Finance, fund-raising and relief

43. Amnesty International sections are required to appoint a treasurer and to submit standardized financial reports each year to the International Treasurer.
44. Amnesty International sections are required to adhere to the Guidelines for the Acceptance of Financial Contributions and Fund-raising to Amnesty International.
45. No fund-raising project shall be carried out by a constituent body of Amnesty International in another country where there is an Amnesty International section without the consent of that section.

46. Amnesty International sections must appoint a relief officer to ensure the section's adherence to Amnesty International's relief policy and procedures and advise groups and members on their relief activities. Relief payments to individual prisoners, released prisoners or prisoners' families must be made in accordance with the recommendations of the IS and be reported to the secretariat every six months.
47. An Amnesty International section or coordination group may operate a relief program on behalf of the IS only with the agreement of the Relief Committee and the section concerned.

Membership, internal structures and information handling

48. Amnesty International sections and groups are required to observe the guidelines for sections and groups adopted by the ICM.
49. Recognition of an Amnesty International section is the responsibility of the IEC. The section's statute must be in accordance with the Amnesty International Statute. Any changes in a section's statute concerning aims, methods and objects must be approved by the IEC before they come into force.
50. Amnesty International section governing bodies are responsible for the proper functioning of the Amnesty International membership in their country or territory. The governing body reviews the activities of the members and groups, ensures their proper functioning and has the power to close groups or terminate membership or recommend such action to the IS when the work of such groups or individuals is prejudicial to Amnesty International.
51. Amnesty International section governing bodies are responsible for approving groups before asking the IS to register them.

52. Members of the IEC and of the IS and other Amnesty International bodies shall, in the exercise of their Amnesty International functions, refrain from any action incompatible with their functions. In particular they shall not seek or accept instructions from any national or international entity, other than Amnesty International bodies.
53. Members of Amnesty International section governing bodies and senior staff members are required to observe the guidelines, "Public Role of Members of Amnesty International Section Governing Bodies and Senior Staff Members", recommended by the ICM.
54. Coordination groups are required to observe the rule that members of the group should not be nationals of the country involved, exiles from that country or individuals with political affiliations or interests which would reduce their political objectivity.
55. Coordination groups are required to consult the IS before establishing information contacts outside their own country.
56. Amnesty International sections, groups and members are required to observe strictly the guidelines on responsible handling of information. All internal documents issued by the sections and coordination groups should be clearly marked as internal.
57. Amnesty International sections are required to appoint a member responsible for security who should maintain contact as necessary with the IS and recommend measures to protect the section's offices, information and activities.
58. Consistent failure on the part of Amnesty International sections, groups and members to observe security instructions, including those listed in the *Amnesty International Handbook* and all prisoner dossiers, may be drawn to the attention of the IEC and may result in restricted access to sensitive materials.

Independence and Impartiality

Independence and impartiality are fundamental principles in the work of Amnesty International. They affect all the movement's world-wide activities, from painstaking research into individual cases to mass publicity campaigns. These principles can be tested by looking at Amnesty International's policies, and by studying its information and its working methods.

Is Amnesty International political?

Amnesty International works to prevent some of the gravest violations by governments of people's fundamental human rights. It does not support or oppose any government or political system. The main focus of its campaigning is to:

- *free all prisoners of conscience.* These are people detained anywhere for their beliefs or because of their ethnic origin, sex, colour or language, who have not used or advocated violence;
- *ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners;*
- *abolish the death penalty, torture and other cruel treatment of prisoners;*
- *end extrajudicial executions and "disappearances".*

In carrying out this mandate, Amnesty International does not support or oppose the views of the prisoners whose rights it seeks to defend. It addresses the human rights involved in each case, regardless of the ideology of the government or the beliefs of the victims.

Is Amnesty International linked to any party or government?

Amnesty International is independent. It began in 1961 with a newspaper appeal calling on people to press for respect for human rights in all countries, regardless of ideology. Today the movement has more than 1,100,000 members, subscribers and supporters in over 150 countries and territories; it is open to

anyone who supports its goals. It is independent of all governments. It is not part of any political grouping nor does it undertake joint sponsorship of activities with other groups.

How does Amnesty International collect information?

When Amnesty International hears of political arrests or people facing torture or execution, it concentrates first on getting the facts. At the International Secretariat (IS), the Research Department collects and analyses information from a wide range of sources, including governments, local organizations, official and unofficial news media and independent observers. Amnesty International also sends fact-finding missions to countries to observe trials and interview government officials. No source of information is ruled out on political grounds alone: the aim is to build up a picture of the human rights situation that is as thoroughly corroborated and complete as possible.

How does Amnesty International ensure accuracy?

Amnesty International makes a clear distinction between facts and allegations. The credibility of all sources of information is carefully assessed. To protect the impartiality of the research, staff do not have responsibility for decisions concerning their own country. Furthermore, to ensure the quality of its information, all statements issued by Amnesty International go through a series of vetting procedures, including legal scrutiny.

What is Amnesty International's stand on human rights in different countries?

Amnesty International works on the basis of a single, universal standard: the human rights proclaimed by the international community through the United Nations and other bodies. Working with the most reliable information available to it, Amnesty International seeks effective ways of helping victims wherever it is aware that these rights have been violated.

Techniques include long-term adoption of individual cases; publicizing patterns of human rights abuses; delegations to talk to government representatives; or in cases where torture or death are feared, a network of volunteers to send urgent telegrams signalling international concern. Each technique (or combination of methods) is used pragmatically to get results in the best interests of the prisoners, and inevitably varies from country to country. For this reason, the whole range of the movement's work must be taken into account when assessing its overall impartiality. Amnesty International always seeks and remains open to dialogue with governments. It does not grade governments according to their human rights records or try to compare one country with another.

How does Amnesty International choose its cases?

All cases are assessed strictly in the light of Amnesty International's mandate and the reliability of the information received. Each case is decided on its own individual merits and the organization always carefully considers the most effective way of aiding the victim concerned.

Amnesty International always makes its own assessment of the facts. For example, in deciding whether a person should be considered a prisoner of conscience, Amnesty International is not bound to accept the assertion of a government, the interpretation of a court or the claim of the prisoner as to whether or not he or she has advocated violence. So if the person has been convicted of a violent criminal offence or has been accused of belonging to an organization which advocates violence, this does not necessarily prevent them from being considered a prisoner of conscience.

In allocating cases to groups, safeguards have been adopted to ensure overall impartiality:

- Local Amnesty International groups are not allocated cases of prisoners held in their own countries, nor do they collect or issue information on their own countries.
- Each group is allocated cases with con-

trasting geographical and political backgrounds.

- Groups are not asked to work on cases in countries which are in conflict with their own when this could in any way jeopardize the prisoner in question or give the impression that Amnesty International is itself politically biased.

How does Amnesty International deal with opposition groups and governments?

Amnesty International opposes abuses by opposition groups: hostage taking, torture and killing of prisoners and other arbitrary killings. It holds that responsibility for dealing with such abuses rests with governments, acting in conformity with international standards for the protection of human rights. In its approaches to governments, Amnesty International respects certain standards: it informs the authorities of missions sent to their countries, seeks meetings with their representatives and submits the reports of those missions for comment to the governments before publication.

Amnesty International — A Worldwide Campaign

The problems that Amnesty International confronts are to be found in every region and under all political systems — a sobering fact that results in enormous demands being made on the organization's resources for fact-finding and action. Since it was founded, Amnesty International has worked on behalf of more than 40,000 individual prisoners, held at some point in virtually every nation in the world — although the difficulties of collecting accurate information from some countries are formidable. Its annual report regularly includes entries on more than 140 countries. If you are interested in learning more about the work of Amnesty International or obtaining a copy of the most recent annual report, you can contact the local section or group in your area, or write to the International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom.

How is Amnesty International funded?

Amnesty International is financed by donations from its members and supporters. This financial independence is vital. Rules about accepting contributions are strict in order to ensure that no funds received affect Amnesty International's integrity, make it dependent on any donor or limit its freedom of activity. No funds are sought or accepted from governments.

Minimum Requirements for Sections

An Amnesty International structure in a country* may be given "section" status by the International Executive Committee (IEC) if it meets a range of criteria resulting from past decisions of the International Council and the IEC**.

For further details contact the Membership Unit of the International Secretariat (IS).

In summary, the Amnesty International structure must demonstrate that there is in the country a certain level of Amnesty International activism, and a structure capable of:

- supporting, coordinating and supervising Amnesty International activity throughout the country
- developing campaigning on Amnesty International's concerns throughout the country
- representing Amnesty International in the country
- representing Amnesty International's membership in the country within the international movement.

Criteria

Amnesty International structures must generally meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for section status within the movement.

Basic level of activism & experience

1. There must be an active membership at local level — not less than two groups and 20 members*** — which in promotion of Amnesty International's mandated concerns maintains a reasonable level of participation in basic Amnesty International activities, including making direct appeals on behalf of victims of human rights violations and seeking the active contribution of others to campaigning on Amnesty International's concerns.
2. There must be a reasonable number of members who have undergone a basic training in the aims and methods of Amnesty International.

Relationship to the international movement & adherence to basic Amnesty International principles

3. The structure must have a statute which reflects the objects and methods of Amnesty International as contained in the Amnesty International Statute, articles 1 and 2. This statute is to be approved by the IEC.
4. The structure and all its constituent parts must act in accordance with the Amnesty International Statute and the working rules and guidelines adopted from time to time by the International Council and the IEC. Of particular importance are the guidelines regarding security and responsible handling of information and the guidelines on section work on one's own country. The structure shall take no action on matters that do not fall within these provisions.
5. The structure's composition and the circumstances in which it operates must be such as to ensure its political independence and freedom of action. The structure is responsible for ensuring that the impartiality and political balance of Amnesty International as a whole is reflected in the work and image of the section in the country.
6. The structure must not operate in violation of the law of its own country.
7. The structure must be willing and able to participate in the consultation and decision-making process of the international organization.
8. The structure should be able to deal with material in the working language of the international movement (English).
9. Any arrangements for subdivisions of the structure must be consistent with the one country/one section principle.

Democratic leadership and accountability

10. There must be democratic rules, clear lines of authority and democratic accountability; this includes clear democratic procedures for the election of officers, provision for appeals against decisions, amendments to the statute.
11. Within the framework of international accountability, the supreme decision-making body of the structure must be a general meeting which receives for consideration annual activities and financial reports, major policy proposals and a general plan and budget for the next period. There must be provision for an extraordinary general meeting as well as regular ordinary meetings.
12. There must be a governing body, such as an executive committee or board, which represents the membership of the section and which meets regularly.
13. The governing body is responsible to the IEC for the proper functioning of the Amnesty International organization in that country and for ensuring consistent and effective work for concerns within the Amnesty International mandate.
14. The structure must submit comprehensive annual reports on its activities to the IEC.

Membership

15. The statute must specify the terms and conditions of membership including the conditions for exclusion or expulsion from membership. Provision for appeal to a higher authority, eg general assembly, must be made. While recognizing that restrictions on membership may be necessary, these should not be more rigorous than the political, social and legal situation in the country demands and should be made subject to review from time to time.
16. There must be policy and program for

recruiting new members and developing membership from a broad spectrum of the community.

17. There must be policy and program for membership training.
18. There must be policy and procedures for establishing, supporting, monitoring and closing local groups, coordination groups, professional groups and any other membership structure which may be developed within the country.
19. If external organizations are to be eligible for membership, the statute must contain provisions which conform to the requirements of 1985 International Council 44 (Policy & Guidelines on Affiliated Membership).
20. Up-to-date membership records and mailing lists must be maintained and these should be made available to the IS if requested.
21. The structure must inform the IS of the names of national officers and staff, and notify the IS of any change of mailing or office address of the national structure or groups registered with the IS.

National campaigning activities

22. The structure should promote awareness of the work and aims of Amnesty International on a national level.
23. There must be systems for handling material sent by the IS and for making Amnesty International information available to members and to the general public as appropriate; this includes distribution of the *Amnesty International Newsletter* and other Amnesty International publications in the country and the development of subscriber programs as appropriate.
24. Where appropriate there should be a program of translation into national languages.
25. There should be a program for de-

veloping relations with the national press and with national organizations and institutions, and guidelines for use by members in these relations.

26. There should be procedures and a program for contact with the national government on matters relating to Amnesty International's concerns, apart from human rights violations within the government's jurisdiction (such approaches are the responsibility of the IEC and the IS).

Finance

27. There should be a fund-raising program and the structure should make such financial contribution to the international movement as is determined by the International Council.
28. The structure must ensure its financial independence and observe Amnesty International international guidelines on acceptance of financial contributions and fund-raising.
29. There must be adequate systems for recording and reporting income and expenditure, and the structure must submit annual statements of its finances to the international treasurer.

Granting & withdrawing section status

Granting section status

At its December 1990 meeting the IEC decided the following in relation to applications for section status:

1. A potential section should demonstrate that they can operate at a basic level of section functioning for approximately one year after notifying the IEC of intention to apply for section status.
2. Before being granted section status the potential section must demonstrate that during this time it has met each of the minimum requirements and responsibilities. [See part 1]

3. The potential section will be required to report, at the time of applying for section status, on *activities carried out* and *specific policy, procedures and plans* adopted, in relation to these requirements and responsibilities.
4. The IEC will grant section status when it is satisfied, based on the application report and other reports as appropriate which are consistent with the application report, that the applicant meets the criteria.

The IEC noted that:

5. Decision 50 of the 1982 International Council gave the IEC the authority to waive a requirement "where considered advisable or necessary in the existing circumstances".
6. The reference in the Statute to the minimum requirement of two groups and 20 members represents the lowest common denominator, taking into account the existence of very small countries, but in most situations a structure of this size would be unlikely to meet the operational requirements of a section as specified in the criteria.

Withdrawing section status

Article 40 of the Statute details the process to be followed for section status to be withdrawn:

1. The IEC may withdraw section status if a section:
does not act within the spirit of the object, mandate and methods set out in Articles 1 and 2 or does not organize and maintain basic Amnesty International activities or does not observe any of the provisions of this Statute.
2. Before taking such action:
the section and...all other sections will be informed in writing of the grounds on which it is proposed to deprive it...of membership, and such section...shall be provided with an opportunity of presenting its case to the IEC.

3. Once the IEC has decided to take such action:

the section may appeal to the Membership Appeals Committee.

Public role of members of section governing bodies and senior staff members

In order to maintain the independence of sections, the International Council recommended the following rules to sections (decision 50 of the 1982 International Council):

1. To be a member of a section governing body or a senior staff member is incompatible with holding an elected or appointed top level position in the administrative, policy-making, law-giving, defence and law-enforcement system of a country; it is also incompatible with holding other elected or appointed positions which play a determinant role in foreign policy or domestic law-enforcement decisions of a country.
2. To be a member of a section governing body or a senior staff member is incompatible with holding a position in top ruling bodies of political parties.
3. An Amnesty International member should not accept membership of a section governing body or a senior staff position while holding any of the above-mentioned positions. If elected or accepting appointment to any such

post he or she should resign from the section governing body or senior staff position.

4. In some situations a person's previous employment or activity may prove incompatible with being a member of a section governing body or senior staff member.
5. In any situation of uncertainty as to whether or not a present position or previously held position should be treated as coming within the above rules, the section and/or the member concerned should seek and abide by the opinion of the IEC.
6. These guidelines also apply to leading members of Amnesty International groups in countries or territories without a section.

Notes

(a) Somewhat similar guidelines were adopted in September 1979 by the IEC regarding the public roles of IEC members.

(b) Sections may want to draw up for themselves similar guidelines which would relate to appointment or election of individuals to posts within the section at local and regional levels.

(c) The IEC will take these guidelines into consideration when approving the creation of groups without a section.

End notes

* This term is used for convenience. "Sections" are usually based on nation states, although in certain circumstances an Amnesty International structure based on a territory may be given section status. See part 6 for Amnesty International's policy.

** Decisions 50 and 60 of the 1982 International Council, decision 28 of the 1979 International Council, decision 44 of the 1985 International

Council and decision 15 of the 1987 International Council, and decision of the IEC in December 1990)

*** This minimum requirement, contained in the Statute, takes into account the existence of very small countries, but the IEC has stated that in most situations a structure of this size would be unlikely to meet the operational requirements of a section, as specified in the criteria.

Requirements for Local Amnesty International Groups

The following requirements reflect decisions taken by representatives of the membership at International Councils.

Minimum requirements (adopted by 1982 International Council decision 50)

1. The group shall be registered with the section, or where there is no section, with the IS.
2. The group must have an organized structure and sufficient active members — not less than five — to ensure effective and continuous work, to elect officers, and to maintain a reliable mailing address. In particular where there is no section, some of its members need to be able to deal with material in the working language of the international movement (English).
3. All members of the group shall agree to work in accordance with the Amnesty International Statute and the working rules and guidelines adopted from time to time by the IEC and the section, as appropriate. Of particular importance are the guidelines regarding security and responsible handling of information and the guidelines on section work in one's own country.
4. From an early stage of the formation of the group its members shall participate in Amnesty International training program in order to gain a clear understanding of Amnesty International's aims and working methods and to develop training programs for new members.
5. The group shall maintain a reasonable and consistent level of Amnesty International activity in promotion of Amnesty International's mandated concerns and shall submit reports on its work every six months to the section and, where necessary, to the IS. Where there is no section, a group shall submit its reports to the IS.
6. The group must acquire a sound financial basis so as to ensure its financial participation in the movement. It must safeguard its financial independence through observance of Amnesty International international guidelines on acceptance of financial contributions and fund-raising.
7. The group must not operate in violation of the law of its own country.
8. The composition of the group and the circumstances in which it operates must be such as to ensure its political independence and freedom of action. This is of particular importance for a group where there is no section.

Recognition: A group shall be formed and recognized only with the consent of the section, or where there is no section, with the consent of the IEC.

Temporary or permanent closure: Temporary or permanent closure of a group where there is a section is governed by the rules for groups of the respective section. Where there is no section, external changes in the political circumstances in which the group exists and operates or internal developments within the group which seriously affect one or more of the above minimum requirements may lead to the temporary or permanent closure of the group by the IEC.

Exemption: Any one or all of the requirements for groups may be waived by the IEC in relation to a particular group, where considered advisable or necessary in the existing circumstances.

Explanatory notes

Paragraph 1: Pending a review of all guidelines for participation in Amnesty International work "Amnesty International group" for the purposes of determining section International Council voting entitlement only will

be taken to mean a group registered at the IS as having been allocated an action file or RAN dossier.

Paragraph 5: There has been much discussion in the movement concerning the basic campaigning activities which should be expected of Amnesty International groups. It has been agreed that local Amnesty International groups should work on Amnesty International's mandated concerns by endeavouring to engage in the following general activities:

- appealing directly on behalf of the victims of human rights violations
- seeking the support of others in Amnesty International's work
- contributing to the financial support of the movement. (1987 International Council decision 15)

"Appealing directly on behalf of the victims of human rights violations" can include: let-

ters, telexes, telegrams, phone-calls, delegations.

"Seeking the support of others in Amnesty International's work" can include: persuading local individuals, groups and organizations to sign and send letters; leaflet, poster and petition distribution; publicity stalls; local media contacts; addressing meetings.

"Contributing to the financial support of the movement" means fund-raising.

These campaigning activities can take place in the context of action forms such as:

- RAN dossiers and action files, involving longer-term commitment
- medium-term country/theme campaigns
- short-term appeals (eg, urgent actions, newsletter appeals).

Revised guidelines for the acceptance of funds and fund-raising by Amnesty International

(Adopted by the 1987 International Council. Note: By decision 77 of the 1991 International Council, the principles of these guidelines are to be applied to decision-making on the acceptance of sponsorship.)

1. Statement of Purpose

This document offers guidelines for the raising and receiving of funds by Amnesty International. Their purpose is to safeguard the integrity and independence of the organization by setting forth general principles to guide the decisions taken by members and the responsible organs of Amnesty International. The guidelines also include approval procedures and reporting mechanisms.

2. General Principles

- 2.1 **Amnesty International is an organization dedicated to the defence of specific human rights as defined by its statute.** Hence, funds sought by and given to Amnesty International must be in consonance with the objective of the Statute.
- 2.2 **Amnesty International is and must remain a broadly based and self-supporting organization.** Hence, funds raised and received by Amnesty International must neither narrow nor diminish its volunteer and popular support.
- 2.3 **Amnesty International is and must remain, and be seen to remain, an independent and impartial organization.** Hence, funds requested and accepted by Amnesty International must in no way incur financial dependence, real or apparent, upon any political or interest group singly or in combination, nor limit the freedom of activity and expression enjoyed by the organization, nor direct its areas of concern.

3. Application

- 3.1 No donation with conditions attached

that are inconsonant with the Statute may be accepted by any constituent body of Amnesty International.

- 3.2 No donation from national governments may be accepted by any constituent body of Amnesty International.
- 3.3 No donation may be accepted which would compromise the overall independence and impartiality of Amnesty International or give reasonable grounds for suggesting that its work for human rights was influenced or directed by the donors.
- 3.4 No donation may be accepted from any individual, agency or institution which would substantially meet the cost of establishing or maintaining a constituent body of Amnesty International.
- 3.5 No donation may be accepted which would make a constituent body of Amnesty International directly or indirectly dependent for its overall level of program on the resources made available by the donor.
- 3.6 No donation may be accepted which, by earmarking for work on a specific country or otherwise, would distort the previously agreed priorities of a constituent body of Amnesty International.
- 3.7 No donation may be accepted which requires that a constituent body of Amnesty International adjust its programs to rules established by the donor.
- 3.8 No donation may be accepted on terms which give to the donor the commercial right to advertise a donation to Amnesty International or associate the donor's name, symbol or other identification with Amnesty International